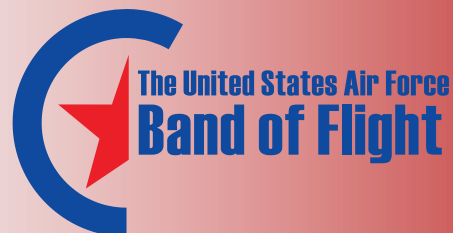




WRIGHT NOTES



News from the USAF Band of Flight

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**Year of the Air Force
Family**



Commander's Corner
Major R. Michael Mench



Vocalist Staff Sergeant Terra Mason brings some energy to her performance during a recent summer concert.

Please let me welcome you to the inaugural issue of Wright Notes, the USAF Band of Flight's new quarterly newsletter. Many people lent a hand over the past year getting everything ready for this launch, but I'd like to single out Master Sergeant (select) Wendy Harvey as director of the band's Public Affairs shop for really spearheading this initiative and leading the team that will keep this alive.

We must have the best job in the Air Force. We travel and perform over 400 times a year for crowds of people who really enjoy what we offer – our way of showcasing the excellence of the Air Force through the incredible musicianship we bring to the stage. But after those two hours together we often don't meet you again for another year or two... or worse! Hopefully Wright Notes will change that. You will now get a chance to see what we've done over the last few months and see what we'll be up to in the near

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future. Together we'll say hello to new members and good-bye to some old friends. We hope to keep you informed well enough that when we meet again it will be like we never left.

So, as you peruse this issue you'll see that we've had an extremely busy summer and are looking forward to an eventful fall. We'll want to say welcome to two extremely talented musicians who just joined our family, Senior Airman Kaz Kruszewski from Skokie, IL, and Airman 1st Class Andrew Duncan from North Huntingdon, PA, both new trombonists. Soon we will bid farewell to two amazing individuals: Technical Sergeant Brian Hornbuckle, who will soon be playing trumpet in Hawaii with the USAF Band of the Pacific, and Senior Master Sergeant Bob Green, who will move to a Pentagon position. We wish you all the best.

Enjoy this issue of Wright Notes, and we hope to see you in person really soon.

Maj R. Michael Mench



Concert Band Prepares for Veteran's Day Concerts

Technical Sergeant Wendy Harvey

The Band of Flight will present a concert titled "War in Remembrance" at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in honor of Veteran's Day. The program includes band works representing wars from biblical times to modern day. According to Major Mench, the concert allows us to "look at man's attempts to grasp the horrors, humanity, and humor of war through music."

The concert opens with the *Chester Overture for Band* by renowned twentieth-century American composer, William Schuman. This composition is based upon an original tune, written by William Billings, which was used by the Continental Army during the American Revolution as a marching song.

Heroes, Lost and Fallen (A Vietnam Memorial) is a tone poem written by David Gillingham. The music is based upon a poem written by the composer which reads in part:

Resolve this conflict
In hearts so sullen
And bring eternal peace
To the heroes, lost and fallen. (5-8)

This powerful piece, with quotes from the "Star Spangled Banner," the "Vietnamese National Anthem"

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and “Taps,” depicts the varying emotions of war from the uncertainty before, the intensity during, and the serenity after.

The band will perform “Let Me Fly” written by CMSgt Larry MacTaggart. “Let Me Fly” is a selection from an original musical production, *Born of a Dream*. It was written and performed by The United States Air Force Band at Bolling Air Force Base in 2003 in celebration of the 100th anniversary of flight. The lyrics, as sung by the extraordinary Staff Sergeant Felita Rowe, reflect the memories of a young child hearing stories from his grandfather who served valiantly as a Tuskegee Airman. The Tuskegee Airmen were members of the first all black air combat unit who served during World War II. These aviation pioneers paved the way for the integration of the Air Force in 1949.

Morton Gould’s “*Jericho*” *Rhapsody for Symphonic Band* is an important work in the symphonic band repertoire. The composer developed this passionate piece around the story of the Battle of Jericho as told in the book of Joshua.

This program is one in an annual series presented by the Band of Flight at the world’s oldest and largest military aviation museum. After the Veteran’s day concert, the next set of performances will be the Holiday concerts with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra on December 19th and 20th. You can call the Special Events office at (937) 255-5924 for more information regarding this special event.



Major Mench conducts the Concert Band during its September concert at the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

Please join the Band of Flight in the Modern Flight Gallery for an inspiring evening honoring those who fought so valiantly on the seas, in the air, and on foreign land. “War in Remembrance” will be presented on Friday, November 6th and Saturday, November 7th at 7:30 pm. The concert is free and no tickets are needed. Doors open at 6:30pm. Seating is limited to the first 1,200 people.

The Secretary and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force named July 09 - Jul 10, Year of the Air Force Family. The Year of the Air Force Family will provide leadership at all levels a vehicle to communicate information and data to Airmen, family members, surrounding communities and Department of Defense audiences on the variety and scope of programs offered by the Air Force. The Year of the Air Force Family will be used to highlight the many successful programs already in place and to inform Airmen and their families of the development of new programs, unveiling them throughout the year. (from af.mil, the official Air Force website)



Welcome to Our Newest Members



Senior Airman Kaz Kruszewski
Trombone

Hometown: Skokie, IL
Education: Bachelor of Music
Indiana University



Airman First Class Andrew Duncan
Trombone

Hometown: North Huntingdon, PA
Education: Bachelor of Music
West Virginia Wesleyan College
Master of Music
Carnegie Mellon University

Best Wishes to Departing Members



Technical Sergeant Brian Hornbuckle
Trumpet

Band of Flight Service: 8 years
New Assignment: USAF Band of the Pacific-
Hawaii



Senior Master Sergeant Bob Green
Percussion

Band of Flight Service: 7 years
New Assignment: Secretary of the Air
Force/Public Affairs, DC

Systems Go to Renew Recruiting Mission

Staff Sergeant David Diamond

In past decades, the aviation phrase “Systems Go” was a doubly appropriate name for the USAF Band of Flight’s popular music combo. With its busy schedule of recruiting and community relations performances, the group was nearly always “on the go.” Now the band is getting ready to resume its busy ways, preparing for a three-state recruiting tour. The band will travel from November 9-15, performing at several Pennsylvania and West Virginia high schools in conjunction with the efforts of the Air Force’s 311th recruiting squadron, which is responsible for areas of Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, and Maryland.

The Air Force Bands’ mission includes recruiting, along with community relations and military event support. From 2000-2004, Systems Go lent its talents extensively to this branch of the mission, playing around 35 high school performances a year throughout the Band of Flight’s 7-state touring area. “We were recruiting for the Air Force in general, rather than just for the band,” recalls Master Sergeant Jeff Sandru, who served as the audio engineer for Systems Go during that time. “We would take a five minute break for a recruiter to speak to the students. When you play half an hour of popular music, you break the communication barrier.” However, when the Band of Flight was downsized as part of Presidential Budget Decision 720, the popular music group took a performing hiatus to ensure the Concert Band remained fully effective.

After deploying last year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, Systems Go is performing regularly once again. The band even got some experience playing in schools while deployed, supporting U.S. State Department outreach efforts in Bahrain, United Arab Emirates and Oman. The student response was overwhelming and reacquainted the band with student enthusiasm.



Systems Go performs for schoolchildren in Oman

For several years, the Air Force slowed down its recruiting schedule. “For a while, the Air Force was drawing down, even closing down basic training for months at a time,” said Band of Flight Director of Operations Senior Master Sergeant Todd Nicholls. “Now, we’re getting the word out that the Air Force is hiring once again.” To most effectively help with recruiting, the band is doing something new: contacting recruiting squadrons directly and coordinating school performances through them. “We just wanted to say to them, ‘here’s an asset,’” said SMSgt Nicholls. “Maybe we can open the door to a school you haven’t made it in to, and you can use us to focus on towns where extra recruiting efforts are needed.”

To round out its tour, Systems Go will perform the National Anthem at a Cleveland Cavaliers home game on Saturday, Nov. 14. And if you’re in the area of Flinton, Pennsylvania, on Nov. 11, please come to a 6:30PM public concert by the group at Glendale High School.

Band of Flight Updates Fitness Program

Technical Sergeant Jeremiah True

The U.S. Air Force Physical Fitness Standards are growing more stringent, and your United States Air Force Band of Flight is ahead of the curve! Since 2001, the band has implemented mandatory unit PT (physical training) 3 days a week. That program continues now, but has changed drastically in the face of changing Air Force-wide standards. Currently, Airmen must pass an annual PT test, consisting of a 1.5 mile timed run, 1 minute each of push-ups and sit-ups, and an abdominal circumference measurement. While the new fitness standard to be implemented 1 January 2010 retains the same basic elements as the current standard, testing is a bi-annual requirement, and there is a pass/fail requirement for each test component.



Staff Sergeant Shane Spanier and Senior Airman Renee Holland work on core strength during a recent physical training session

The band is subdivided into PT groups, with a certified Physical Training Leader (PTL) for each. Members are required to PT, at minimum, 3 times weekly for 90 minutes (this time is part of the duty day). However, with the newer, more stringent standards on the way, one of the 90 minute blocks is group PT. These team sessions are led by TSgt Jeremiah True, a Band of Flight clarinetist and ISSA Certified Fitness Trainer. The workouts consist of timed, circuit-style training focusing on total-body engagement designed to impose maximum cardiovascular distress in a short period of time. For example, members will do one minute each of the following: air squats, inclined push-ups, sit-ups or crunches, “burpees” (similar to a reverse-squat thrust), and static plank-style holds. All of these exercises are performed in succession with a short rest after each round, for a total of three rounds. Russian kettle bell classes are also occasionally offered in-house, as well as various other circuit-style training opportunities.

Participation in base-wide intramural sports, such as running, is strongly encouraged. Bandsmen must also participate in monthly trial PT tests to ensure acceptable fitness is maintained. “It is imperative that we bandsmen maintain a professional military image,” says CMSgt Eric Strohecker, Air Force Band of Flight band manager. “Senior leadership expects us to have a fit appearance, much like the base honor guard. Also, bandsmen may be the only ‘up-close’ Airmen the public sees, and we must represent the entire Air Force well.” These sentiments are strongly echoed by Major R. Michael Mench, the Band of Flight Commander: “Our professional appearance is second only to our musical product. The way we maintain that appearance is by incorporating fitness into our daily duties and lives.”



Come Enjoy a Concert with your Band of Flight!

November 6	Concert Band- National Museum of the USAF, Fairborn, OH 7:30PM
November 7	Concert Band- National Museum of the USAF, Fairborn, OH 7:30PM
November 11	Systems Go- Glendale High School, Flinton, PA, 6:30PM
December 8	Xenia High School, Xenia, OH 7:00PM
December 9	Franklin High School, Brookville, IN 7:00PM
December 11	Dayton Masonic Center, Dayton, OH 7:30PM*
December 12	Dayton Masonic Center, Dayton, OH 3:00PM* & 7:30PM*
December 13	Dayton Masonic Center, Dayton, OH 7:30PM*
December 19	National Museum of the USAF, Fairborn, OH 7:30PM*
December 20	National Museum of the USAF, Fairborn, OH 7:30PM*

*Tickets required

All concerts are tentative and subject to change; please check our website, www.bandofflight.af.mil for up-to-date information.

The mission of the United States Air Force Bands and Music Program is to support the Air Force in war and peace by fostering our national heritage and by providing professional musical products and services for official military, recruiting, and community relations events.